

HOUSE RESOLUTION 444

By Turner J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Jeff & Jolly Drive Block Club of Memphis, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable neighborhood organizations that are dedicated to improving their communities and the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Jeff & Jolly Drive Block Club is one such worthy group, which has served the citizens of the Jeff & Jolly Drive neighborhood, providing aid and assistance in time of need and generating fellowship among the community; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Drive and Jolly Drive are two streets nestled in the Lakeview Gardens Community of residential homes, which is located in the Whitehaven section of Memphis and originally was a farm community developed as a whites-only suburb in the 1950s and annexed by the City of Memphis in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, the late Samuel M. Peace, attorney William Wolfe, and a group of financial backers created a middle-class neighborhood for young black professionals and retirees in Lakeview Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peace moved to Lakeview Gardens in 1965 and resided there until his death in 2009, operating the Peace Realty Company from his Lakeview Office that all the residents visited when purchasing home mortgages as Jeff and Jolly Drives were among the last streets to be developed; featuring small tracts of homes, Jeff Drive consists of twenty-three houses and Jolly Drive consists of twenty houses; and

WHEREAS, the first family to move to Jeff Drive was Sylvester and Clara Ford and the first family to move to Jolly Drive was Herman and Emma Adams; both families still reside in their homes; and

WHEREAS, one by one many families moved into their first new home; the majority of the young, African American families who signed mortgage contracts in the 1970s were educators and brought strong family values and spiritual beliefs as they reared their children and strengthened careers; and

WHEREAS, the Jeff & Jolly Block Club was established in the 1970s; elected leadership who served as president were Rev. Percy Hunter, Clara Ford, Alphonzo Peoples, Marylene Johnson and current president-Doris McKinney; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that such an exemplary organization comprised of such dedicated and outstanding individuals be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the Jeff & Jolly Drive Block Club for their outstanding legacy of service to their community and extend to them our sincerest wishes for continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.